

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for matching products to a textual request, comprising the steps of:
  - 2 (a) receiving a request for information about an item;
  - 3 (b) parsing the request for determining attributes of the item;
  - 4 (c) searching a database for selecting a plurality of products each having the  
5 attributes of the item;
  - 6 (d) retrieving information about the products ; and
  - 7 (e) outputting the information about the products.
- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of products have been pre-  
2 associated based on the attributes.
- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the information about the products  
2 includes a name of a vendor of the products.
- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein criteria for selecting the vendor include  
2 at least one of price of the products, proximity to the vendor, availability of  
3 delivery, whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability, shipping  
4 availability, tracking availability, and a loyalty program.
- 1 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the information about the products  
2 includes a name of a plurality of vendors of the products.
- 1 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a promotional offer is output with the  
2 information about the products.

- 1 7. A computer program product for matching products to a textual request,  
2 comprising:  
3 (a) computer code for receiving a request for information about an item;  
4 (b) computer code for parsing the request for determining attributes of the item;  
5 (c) computer code for searching a database for selecting a plurality of products each  
6 having the attributes of the item;  
7 (d) computer code for retrieving information about the products ; and  
8 (e) computer code for outputting the information about the products.

- 1 8. A computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the plurality of  
2 products have been pre-associated based on the attributes.

- 1 9. A computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the information  
2 about the products includes a name of a vendor of the products.

- 1 10. A computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein criteria for selecting  
2 the vendor include at least one of price of the products, proximity to the vendor,  
3 availability of delivery, whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability,  
4 shipping availability, tracking availability, and a loyalty program.

- 1 11. A computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the information  
2 about the products includes a name of a plurality of vendors of the products.

- 1 12. A computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein a promotional offer  
2 is output with the information about the products.

- 1 13. A system for matching products to a textual request, comprising:  
2 (a) logic for receiving a request for information about an item;  
3 (b) logic for parsing the request for determining attributes of the item;

- 4 (c) logic for searching a database for selecting a plurality of products each having  
5 the attributes of the item;
- 6 (d) logic for retrieving information about the products ; and
- 7 (e) logic for outputting the information about the products.
- 1 14. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the plurality of products have been pre-  
2 associated based on the attributes.
- 1 15. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the information about the products  
2 includes a name of a vendor of the products.
- 1 16. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein criteria for selecting the vendor include  
2 at least one of price of the products, proximity to the vendor, availability of  
3 delivery, whether the products are in stock, wrapping availability, shipping  
4 availability, tracking availability, and a loyalty program.
- 1 17. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the information about the products  
2 includes a name of a plurality of vendors of the products.
- 1 18. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein a promotional offer is output with the  
2 information about the products.